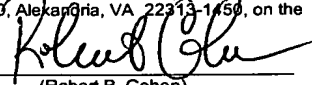




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: November 11, 2003 Signature: 

(Robert B. Cohen)

Docket No.: SCEI 3.0-091
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Shimakawa et al.

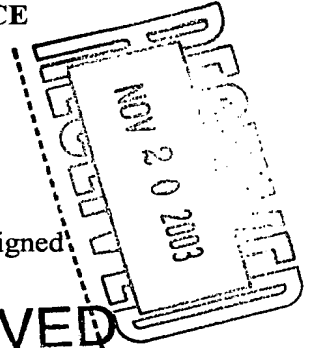
Application No.: 09/976,519

Filed: October 12, 2001

For: VIRTUAL WORLD SYSTEM, SERVER
COMPUTER AND INFORMATION
PROCESSOR

Group Art Unit: 2151

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned



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NOV 19 2003

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(E)(1)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (1), undersigned counsel hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application to the above-referenced patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of said statement.

Dated: November 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert B. Cohen

Registration No.: 32,768

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

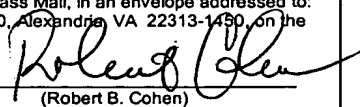
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: November 11, 2003 Signature: 

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the enclosed Official Action issued in connection with applicant's corresponding Japanese patent application, along with its English translation, be made of record and considered with respect to the above-referenced U.S. patent application. The references cited in the Official Action were previously made of record in the present application by way of an Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 9, 2002. Submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement should not be taken as an admission that the cited references are legally available prior art or that the same are pertinent or material.

In the event that any fee is due in connection with the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: November 11, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert B. Cohen

Registration No.: 32,768

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ &
MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant



Reference No. SCEI01125

Dispatch No. 325850
Dispatch Date: Sep. 24, 2003

Notification of Reasons for Refusal

Patent Application No.	2001-312764
Drafting Date:	September 10, 2003
Examiner of JPO	Dairyo Teratani 3051 5R00
Representative/Applicant	Iwao Mishina
Applied Provision	Patent Law Sections 29 (2) and 36

This application should be refused for the reasons mentioned below. If the applicant has any arguments against the reasons, such arguments should be submitted within 60 days from the date on which this notification was dispatched.

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Reasons

Technology Center 2100

(Reason 1)

The inventions in the claims listed below of the subject application should not be granted a patent under the provision of Patent Law Section 29(2) since it could have easily been made by persons who have common knowledge in the technical field to which the inventions pertain, on the basis of the inventions described in the publications listed below which had been distributed in Japan or foreign countries prior to the filing of the subject application.

Notes

(With respect to cited references etc., see the list of the cited documents etc.)

Claims 1 to 3, and 8 to 11

Cited Reference 1

Remarks:

The cited reference 1 describes a system in that a car designed by a player can be used in a battle game through the network (paragraphs [0047] to [0048] and [0078] to [0081])

Claims 4 to 7

Cited Reference 1

Remarks:

The cited reference 1 describes that parts for reconstruction or the like is purchased by the use of a cash award acquired in a race (paragraph [0057]). To give a prize in a tournament such as a race is widely carried out in the real world, too. Therefore, in the invention described in the cited reference 1, in place of giving the cash award to a player to get the player purchasing the parts for reconstruction and so on, to give the parts for reconstruction or the like as a prize to the player could be made an invention even by a person not

skilled in the art.

Claims 1 to 3, and 8 to 11

Cited Reference 2

Remarks:

The cited reference 2 describes a system in that a factory of a player's own can be established in the virtual space (paragraphs [0021] to [0029].

Claims 1 to 3, and 8 to 11

Cited References 3 and 4

Remarks:

The cited references 3 and 4 describe that a virtual life form object or an avatar created by VRML is recorded in the server, to make the virtual life form object or the avatar come on the virtual shared world.

(Reason 2)

(The English translation is omitted since this reason for refusal relates only to the defective descriptions.)

For the claims other than the claim specified in this notification of reason(s) for refusal, no reason for refusal is found at present. If any reason(s) for refusal is found later, it will be notified.

The list of cited references etc.

1. JP-A1-2000-157741
 2. JP-A1-H11-249991
 3. JP-A1-2000-254353
 4. Yoshio Kawakami, "Study on communization of a 3-D virtual space based on VRML", in Report of Technical Research in Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, Japan, Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, October 16, 1998, Vol. 98, No. 339, p.7-14
-

Record of the result of prior art search

• Technical fields searched

Int. Cl(7)

G06F 13/00

A63F 13/00

A63F 13/12

This record of the result of prior art search is not a component of the reasons for refusal.

Any inquiry concerning this notification or a request for interview should be directed to:

Examination Section No. 4 Interface (Information Transfer) Division
Tatsuya Sudo
Tel: 03-3581-1101 Extension. 3565
Fax: 03-3580-6907